

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

## UNCRC Symbols Resource

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Symbols resource has been designed to be used as a symbol communication tool for children and young people who are non-verbal, have speech, language or additional support needs. They can also be used to help communicate ideas and information about children's rights to very young children.

It is a joint resource produced by the Children's Commissioner for England, Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland and the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

The Commissioners' offices worked with Widgit Software, adult practitioners, and children and young people from England, Scotland and Wales to adapt 42 articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into symbols.



# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

## Key aims

This UNCRC Symbols resource has been designed to:

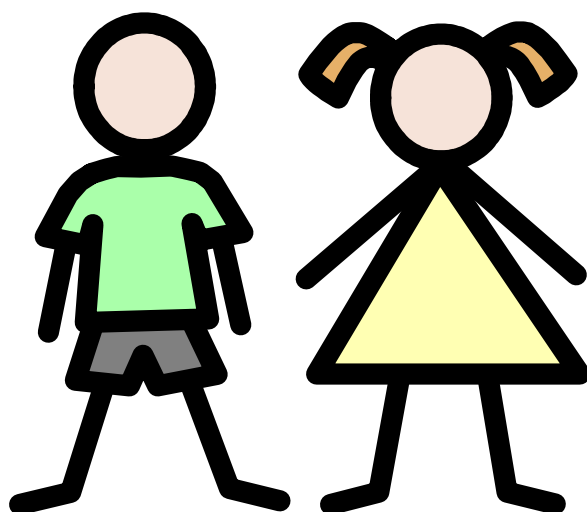
- Complement the full written version of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Develop children and young people's understanding of what rights mean to them, and how they relate to their everyday lives
- Be personalised to suit the needs of individual children or young people.

The UNCRC Symbols resource can be used by educators, support workers, youth workers and practitioners, working with children and young people in a range of settings.



# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

<18



1

Everyone under 18  
has these rights

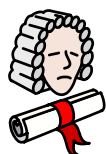


# 1

## Everyone under 18 has these rights



Under the UNCRC a child means every  
human being below the age of 18.



Unless under the law of that country  
majority is attained earlier  
– for example if I get married at 16.



# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



**2** All children have these rights



# 2

## All children have these rights



The UNCRC applies to everyone whatever their race, religion, abilities, whatever they think or say, no matter what family they come from.



Governments should respect and ensure my rights in the UNCRC without discrimination of any kind.



Governments should take measures to make sure that I am protected against discrimination.

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



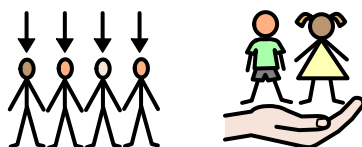
3

Adults must do  
what's best for me

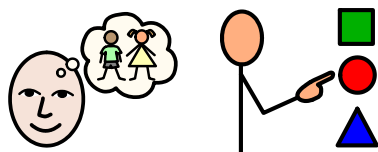


# 3

## Adults must do what's best for me

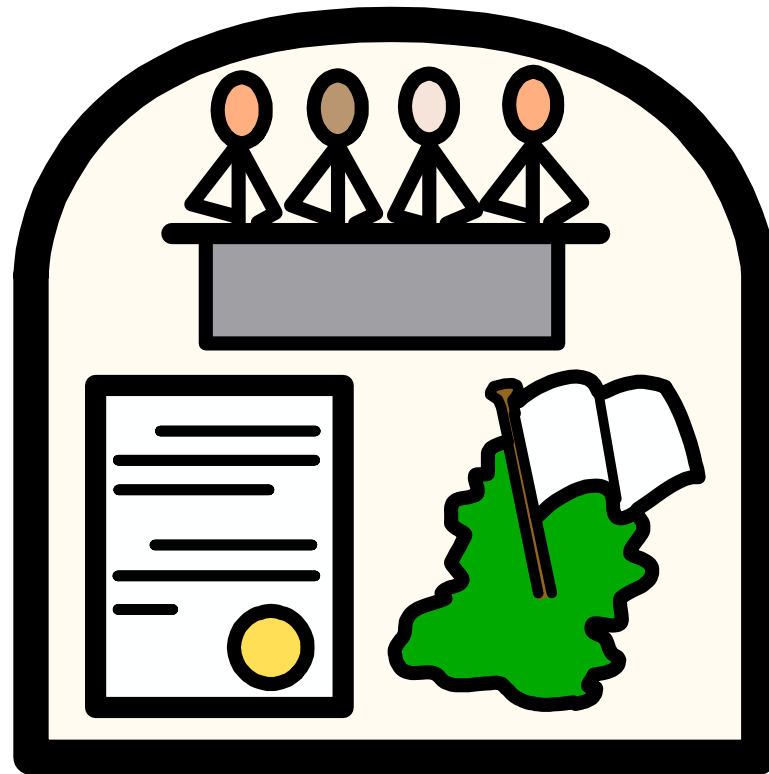


All adults should do what's best for me.



When adults make decisions, they should think how they affect me.

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



4

The Government should make sure my rights are respected

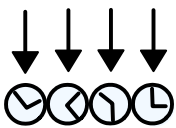


# 4

**The Government should make sure my rights are respected**



**The Government should make sure the rights in the UNCRC are available to me.**



**For example – The Government can't take away my rights whenever they want to, they have to honour the rights which are set out in the UNCRC.**

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



5

The Government should respect the right of my family to help me know about my rights



# 5

**The Government should respect the right of my family to help me know about my rights**



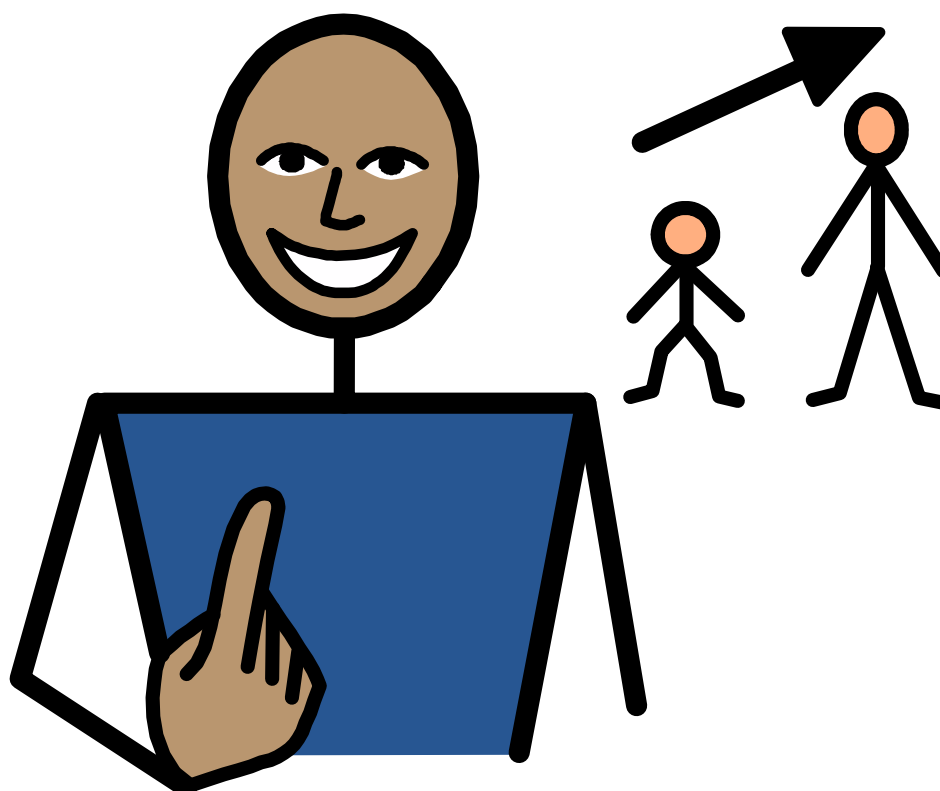
**Governments should respect the rights and responsibilities of parents to guide their children.**



**As I grow, my family should direct and guide me so that I learn to use my rights properly.**



# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



**6** I should be supported to live and grow



# 6

**I should be supported  
to live and grow**

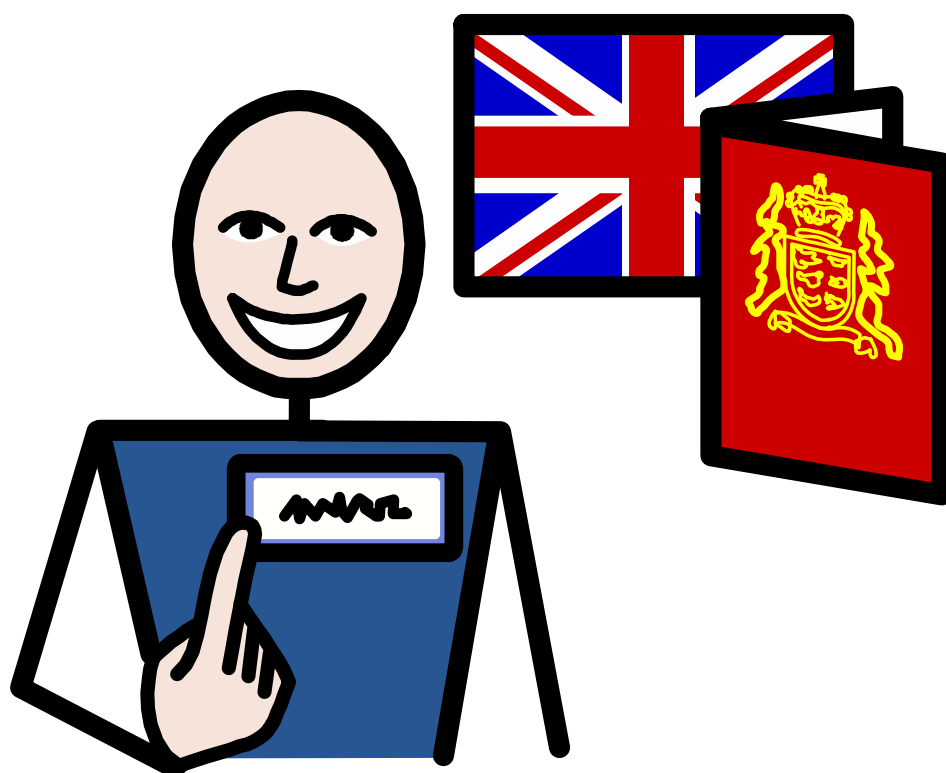


**I have the right to life.**



**Governments should ensure that I  
survive and develop healthily.**

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

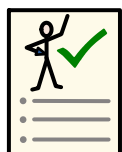


**7** I have a right to a name  
and to belong to a country



# 7

**I have a right to a name  
and to belong to a country**



**I have the right to a legally registered  
name and nationality.**



**I have the right to know and  
be cared for by both my parents.**

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



8

I have a right  
to an identity



# 8

## I have a right to an identity

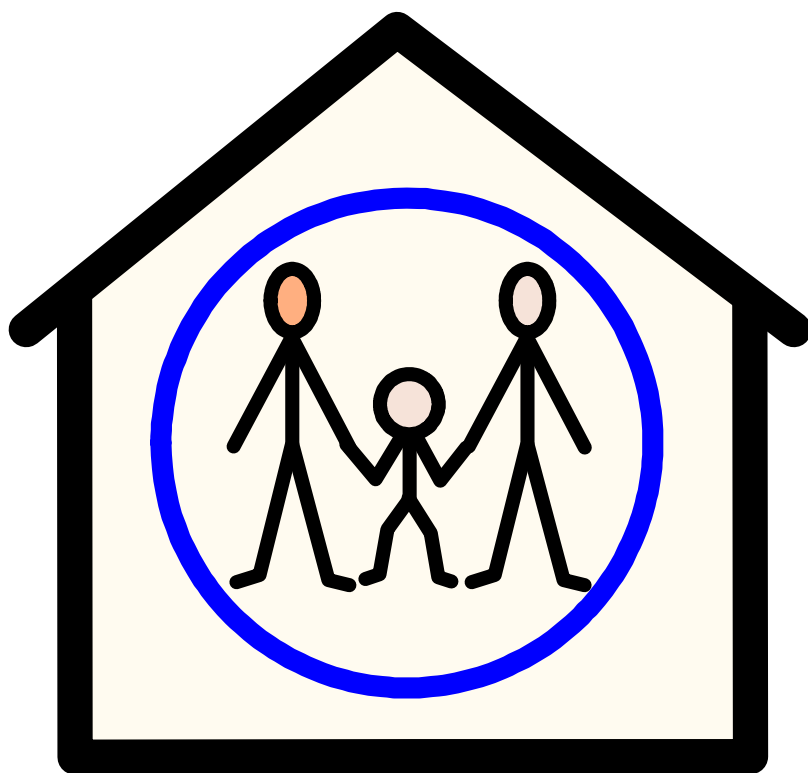


**My right to a name, a nationality and family ties should be respected.**



**For example – This means that despite a person's nationality, name or family background, the UNCRC recognises that they are an individual and have a right to be so.**

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



9

I have a right to live with a family who cares for me



# 9

## I have a right to live with a family who cares for me



I should not be separated from my parents unless it is for my own good – for example if a parent is mistreating or neglecting me.



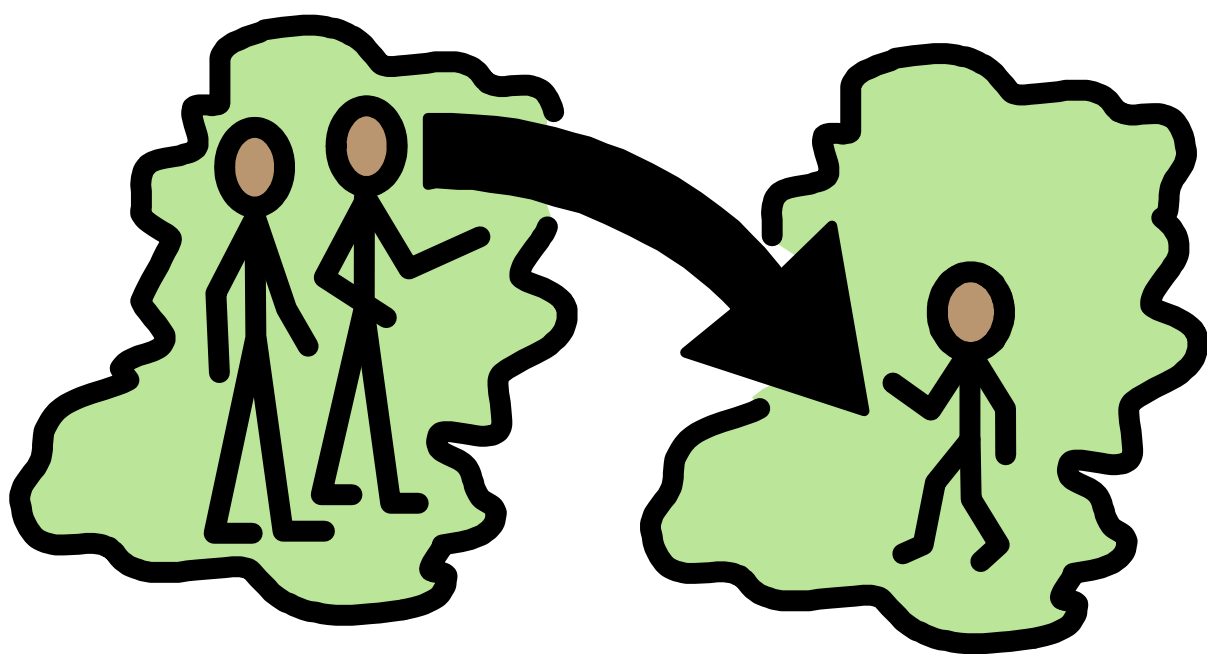
If my parents are separated, I have the right to stay in contact with both of them, unless this might harm me.



In any discussions around separation, I should be given a chance to make my views known.



# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



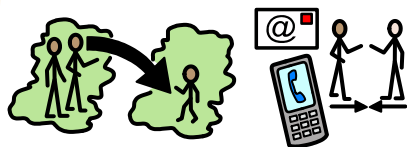
10

I have the right to see  
my family if they live in  
another country



# 10

I have the right to see  
my family if they live in  
another country

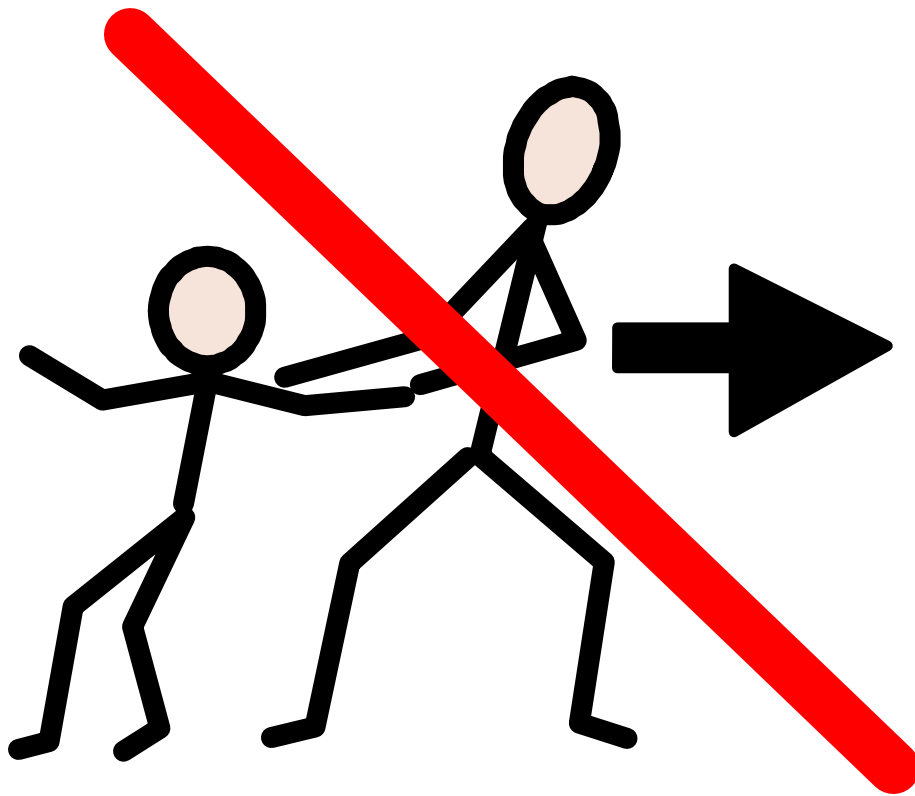


Governments should let families move  
between countries so that parents and  
children can stay in contact.



If my family are living in different countries,  
I have the right to stay in contact  
with both of them.

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



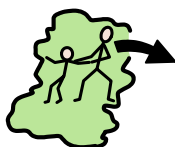
11

I have the right not to be taken out of the country illegally

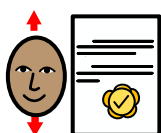


# 11

**I have the right not  
to be taken out of the  
country illegally**

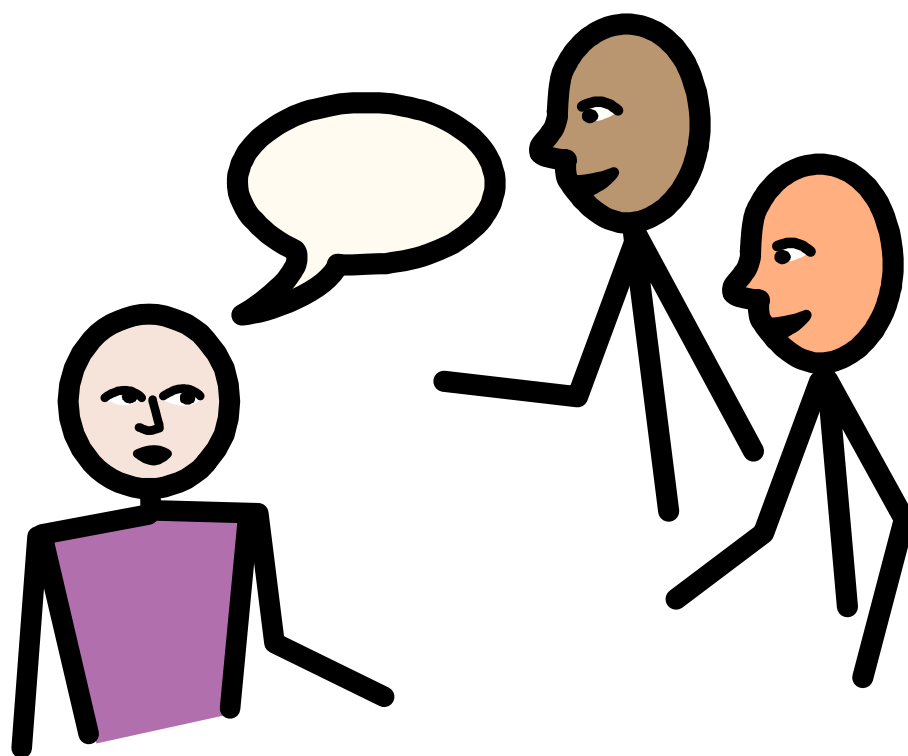


**Governments should take steps to stop me  
being taken out of my own country illegally.**



**Governments should make agreements  
with other countries to guarantee this.**

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



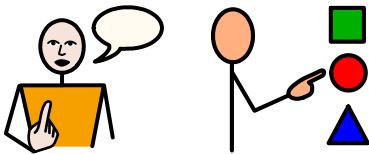
12

I have the right to  
be listened to, and  
taken seriously

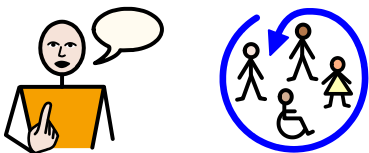


# 12

**I have the right to be listened to, and taken seriously**



**When adults are making decisions that affect me, I have a right to say what I think and be listened to.**



**I have a right for my views to help inform decisions about what happens to me, at home, in school, in my community and in my country.**



**Adults should support me so that I can give my views in a way that is best for me to do so.**

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



13

I have the right to  
find out and share  
information



# 13

**I have the right to  
find out and share  
information**



**This includes the freedom to find, get and  
share information of all kinds.**



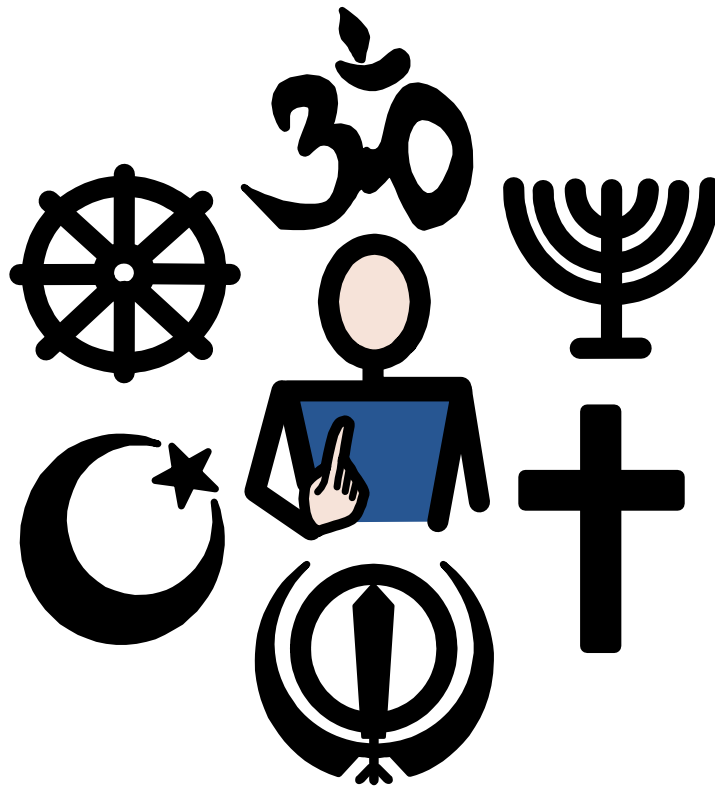
**I can do this by talking, by writing,  
by creating art or whatever I choose.**



**I can do this as long as the information  
is not damaging to myself or others.**



# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

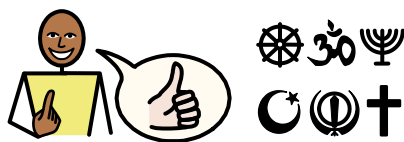


14

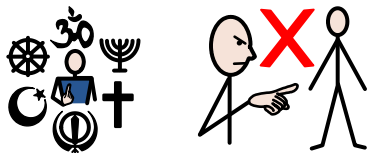
I have the right to have my own thoughts and beliefs and to choose my religion, with my parents' guidance

# 14

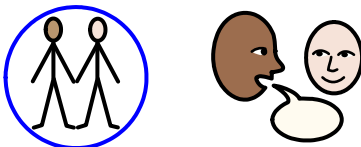
I have the right to have my own thoughts and beliefs and to choose my religion, with my parents' guidance



I have the right to practice my religion and believe what I want.

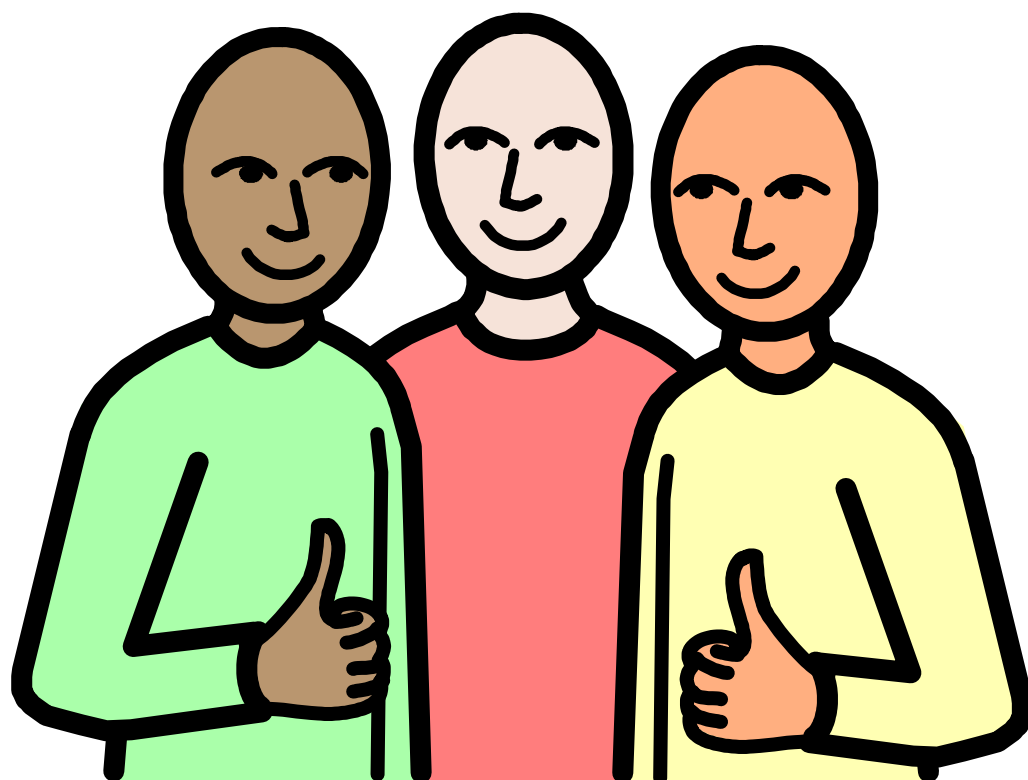


I have this right as long as I'm not stopping other people from enjoying their rights.



My parents should guide me on these matters.

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



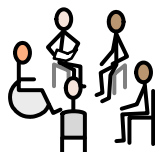
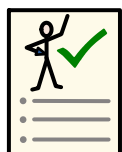
15

I have the right to  
meet with friends  
and to join groups

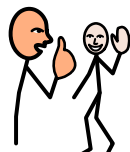
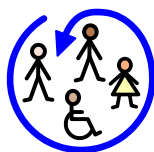


# 15

**I have the right to  
meet with friends  
and to join groups**



**I have the right to join groups and  
organisations as long as this does not stop  
other people from enjoying their rights.**



**For example – I am free to move around my  
community and public spaces to meet others.**

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



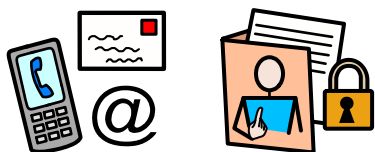
16

I have the right to keep  
some things private

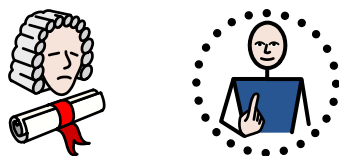


# 16

**I have the right to keep  
some things private**



**My letters, diary or phone calls  
should be private.**



**The law should protect me from attacks  
against my way of life, my good name,  
my family and my home.**

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



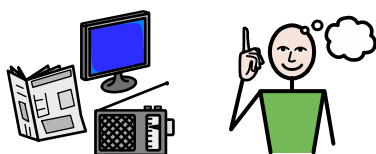
17

I have the right to  
get information in lots of  
ways, so long as it's safe

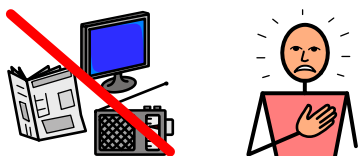


# 17

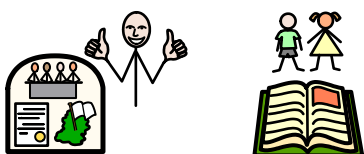
I have the right to  
get information in lots of  
ways, so long as it's safe



Television, radio and newspapers should  
provide information that I can understand.



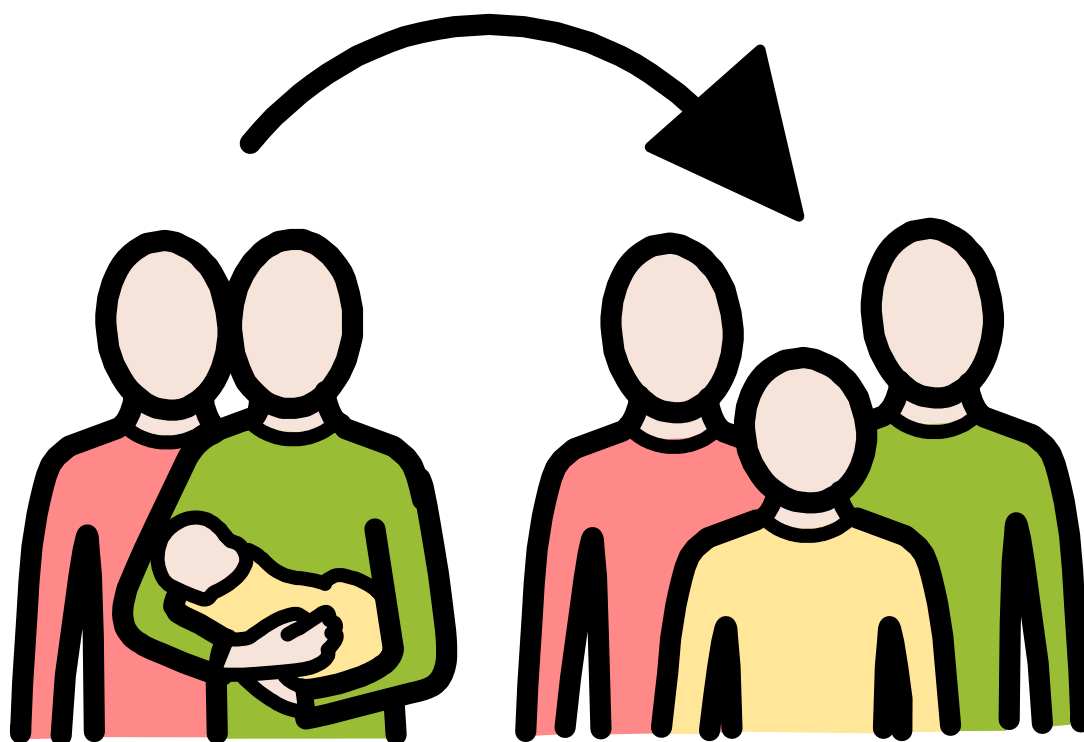
No one should promote materials  
that could harm me.



The Government should encourage  
the production of children's books.



# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



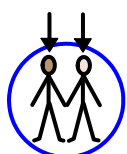
18

I have the right to be brought up by both parents if possible



# 18

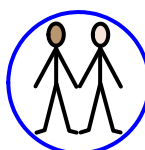
**I have the right to be brought up by both parents if possible**



**Both parents share the responsibility for bringing up children.**

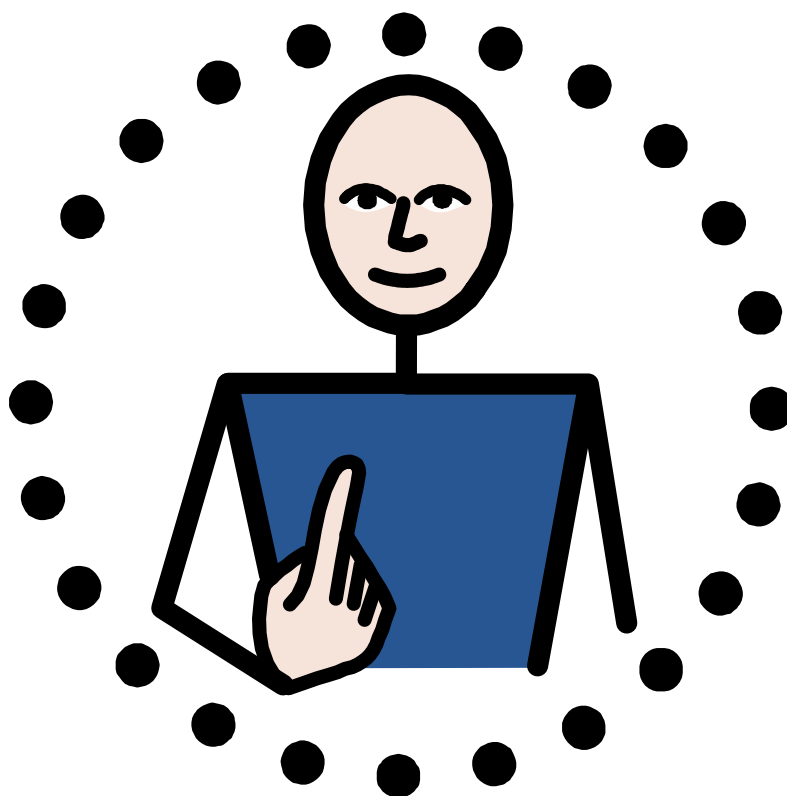


**Parents should always consider what is best for each child.**



**Governments should help parents by providing services to support them, especially if both parents work.**

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



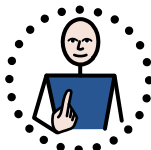
19

I have the right to be protected from being hurt or badly treated

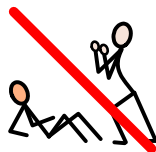
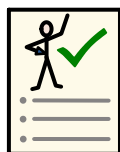


# 19

I have the right to be protected from being hurt or badly treated

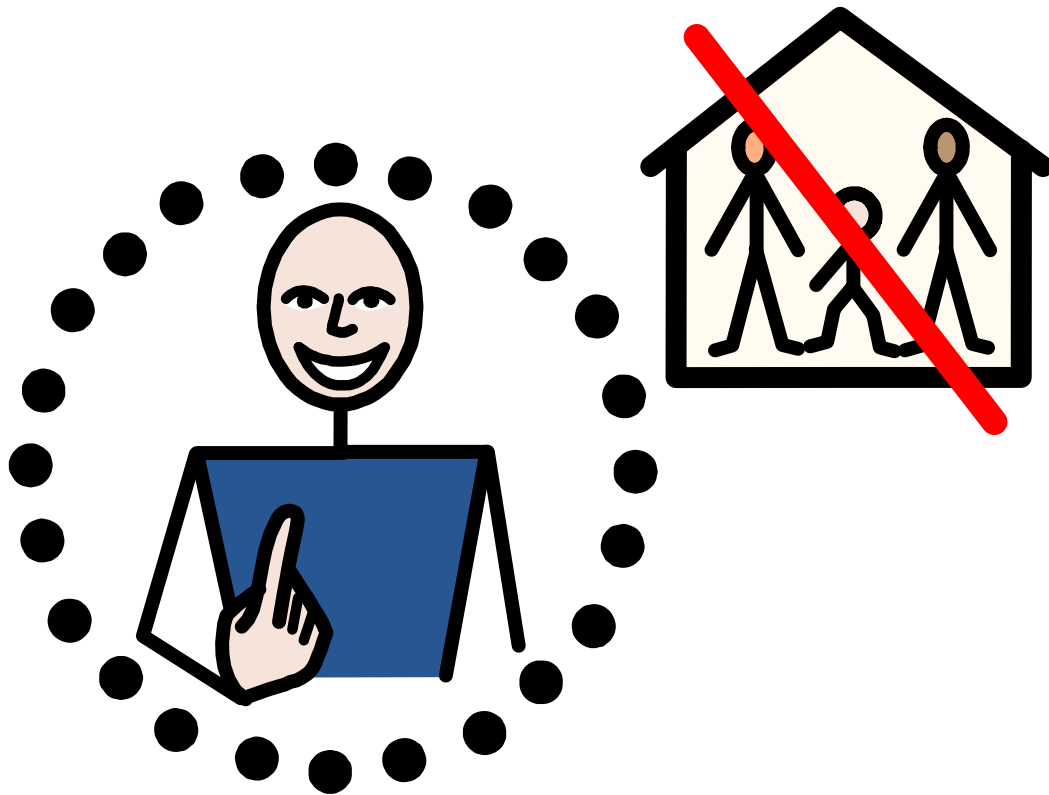


Governments should make sure that I am properly cared for.



I have the right to be protected from violence, abuse and neglect from adults.

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



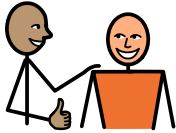
20

I have the right to special protection and help if I can't live with my own family



# 20

**I have the right to special protection and help if I can't live with my own family**

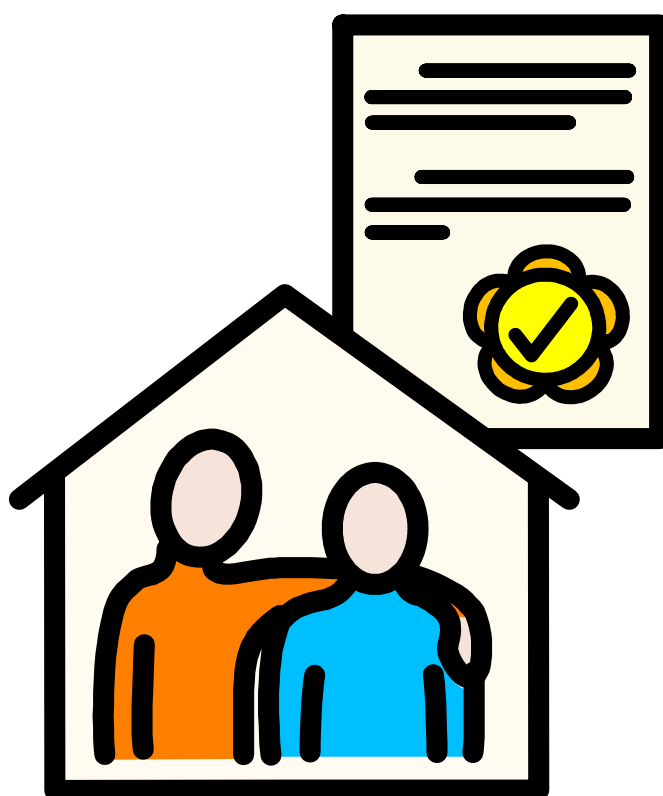


**If I cannot be looked after by my own family, I must be looked after properly, by people who respect my religion, culture and language.**



**The Government should make sure that alternative care is available for me.**

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



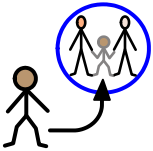
21

I have the right to  
have the best care  
if I am adopted



# 21

I have the right to  
have the best care  
if I am adopted



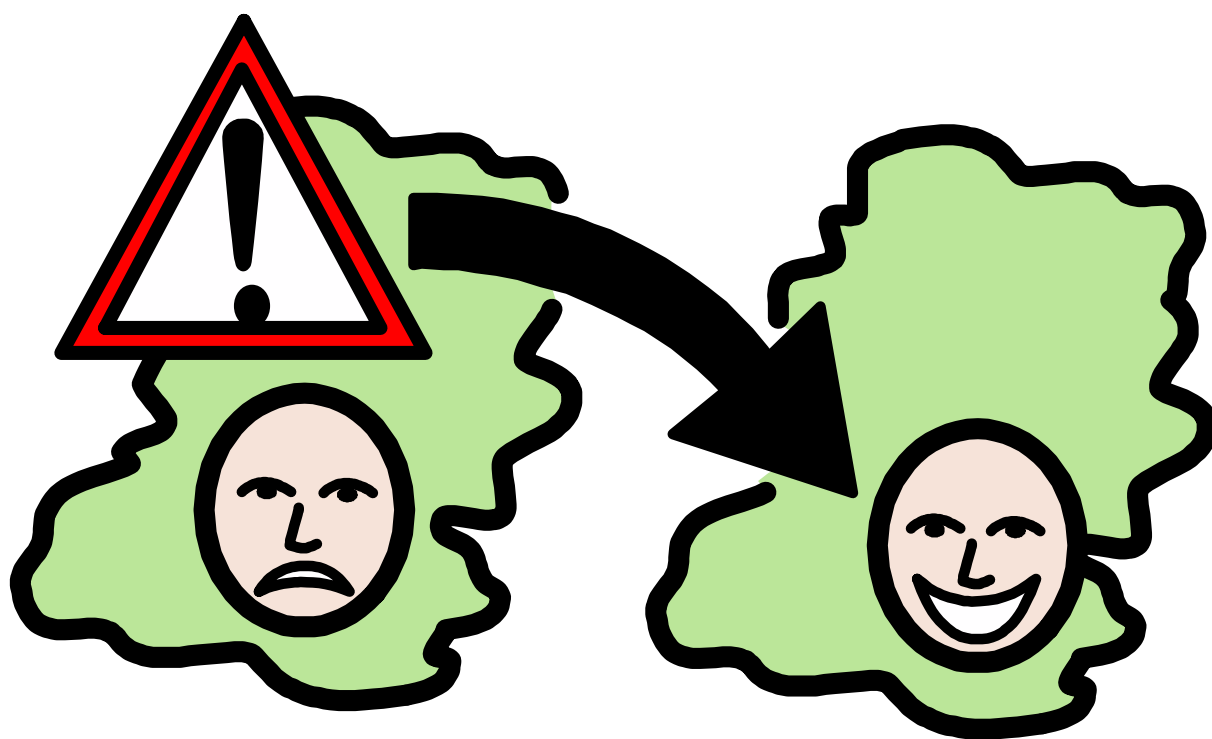
If I am adopted, the first concern  
must be what is best for me.



The same rules should apply whether the  
adoption takes place in the country where  
I was born or if I move to another country.



# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

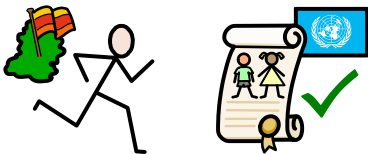


22

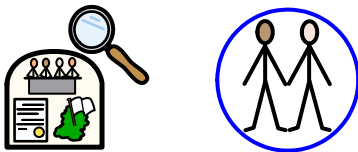
If I am a refugee, I have the same rights as children born in that country

# 22

If I am a refugee, I have the same rights as children born in that country

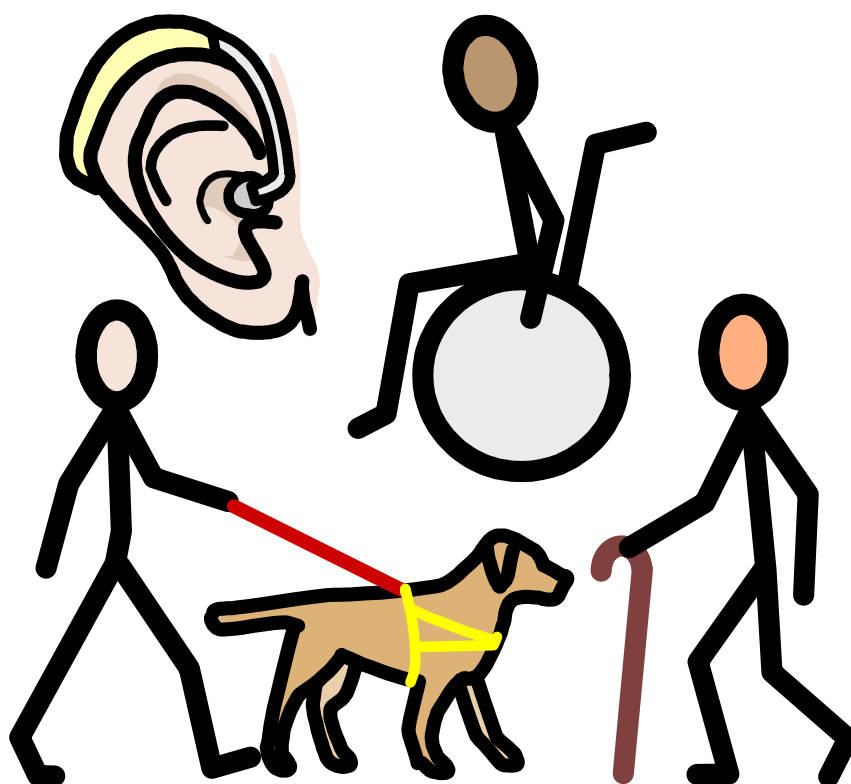


If I have come into a country as a refugee, I should have the same rights as children born in that country.



Governments should try to help find the family of any refugee child.

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



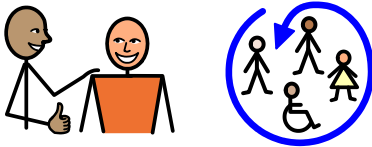
23

If I have a disability, I have the right to special care and education



# 23

**If I have a disability, I have the right to special care and education**



**I have the right to a full and happy life and adults should support me to be an active participant in my community.**

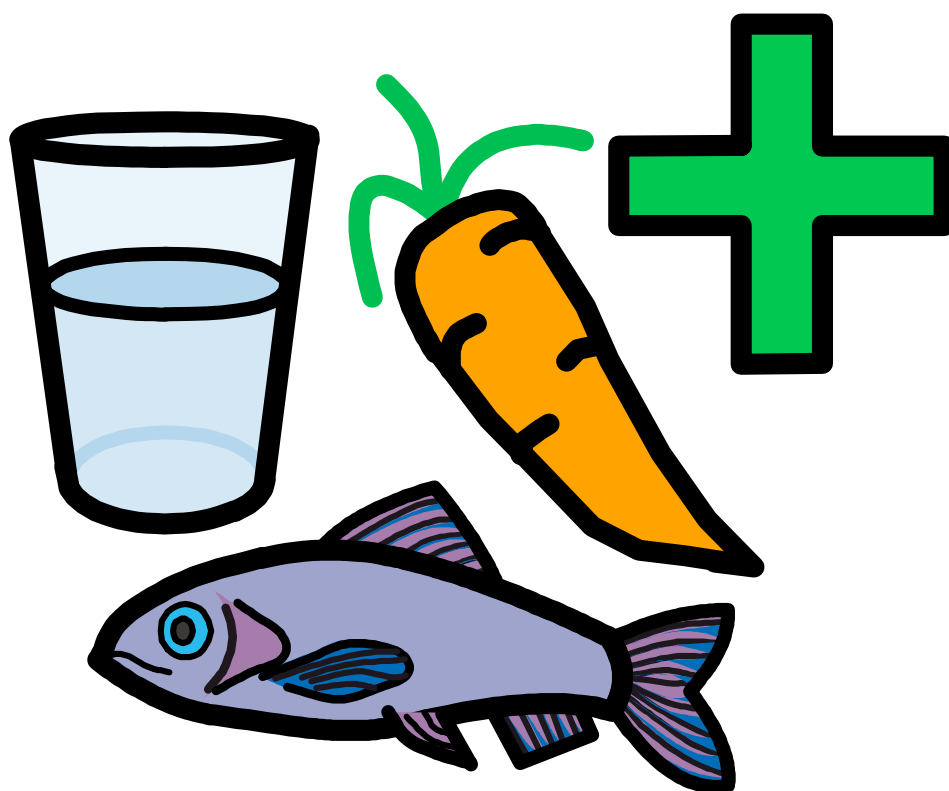


**I have the right to special help and care to make sure I can receive education, health care services, and recreation opportunities.**



**Adults should support me to reach my full potential and individual development and provide opportunities for me to participate in activities with others.**

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



24

I have the right to good quality health care, to clean water and good food

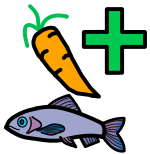


# 24

I have the right to good quality health care, to clean water and good food



I have the right to good quality health care and to clean water.



I have the right to nutritious food and a clean environment so that I can stay healthy.



Rich countries should help poorer countries achieve this.

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



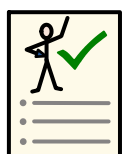
25

If I am not living with my family, people should keep checking I am safe and happy

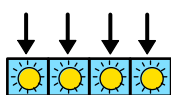


# 25

If I am not living with my family, people should keep checking I am safe and happy



I have the right to have a review of my care if I am looked after by the local authority rather than by my parents.



I have the right to have my situation reviewed regularly.



# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



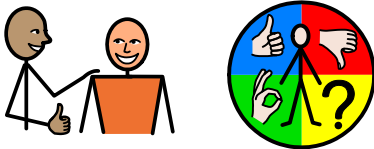
26

My family should get the money they need to help bring me up

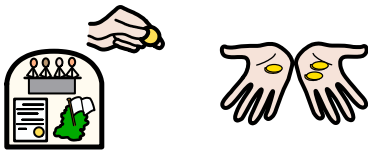


# 26

**My family should get the money they need to help bring me up**



**I have a right to have a standard of living that is good enough to meet my mental and physical needs.**



**The Government should help families who cannot afford this.**

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



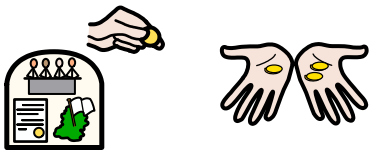
27

I have the right to  
have a proper house,  
food and clothing

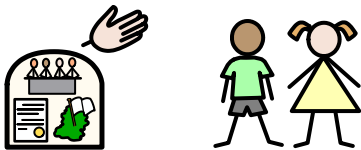


# 27

I have the right to  
have a proper house,  
food and clothing

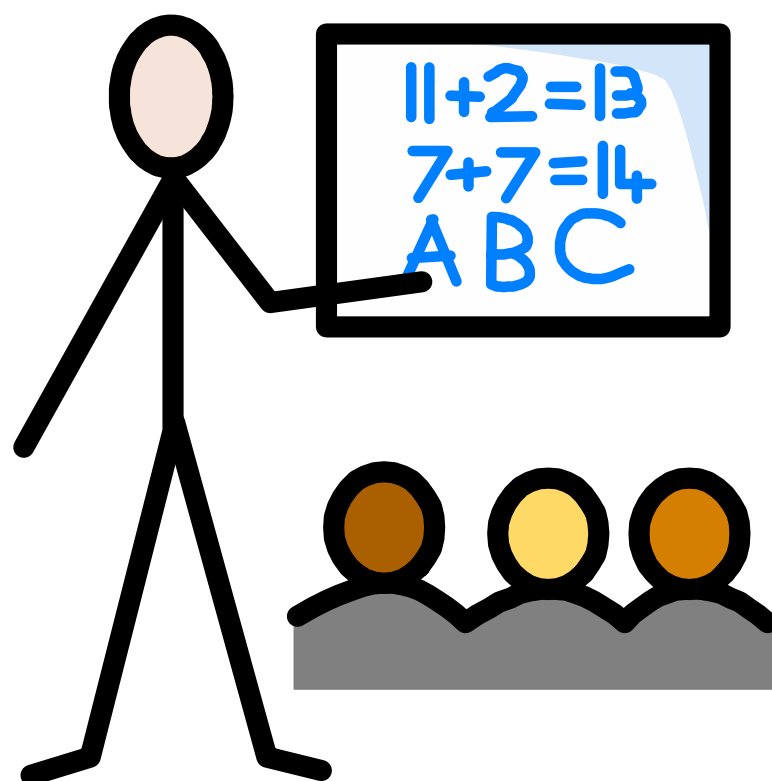


The Government should provide extra money  
for the children of families in need.



For example – If a family does not have money  
or is unable to support themselves the welfare  
state should help the children.

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



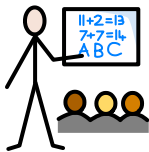
28

I have the right  
to an education

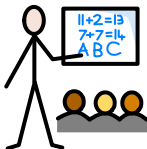


# 28

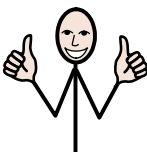
I have the right  
to an education



I have a right to a primary education,  
which should be free.

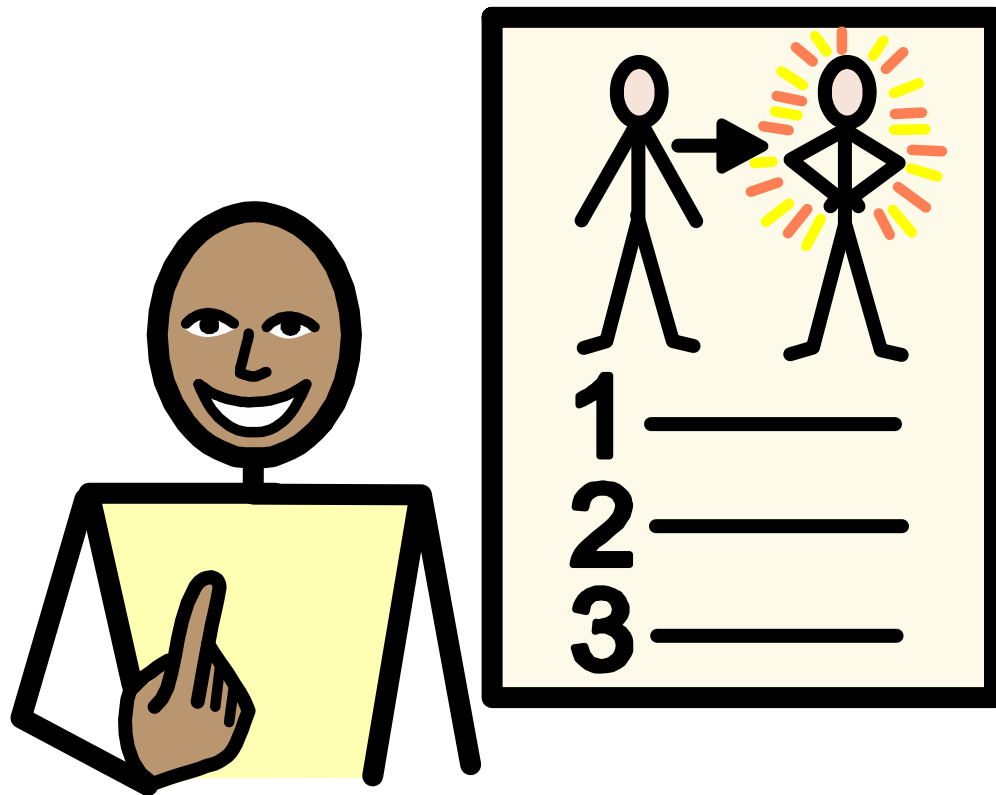


Schools should respect my dignity.



I should be encouraged to reach the highest  
level of education that I am capable of.

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



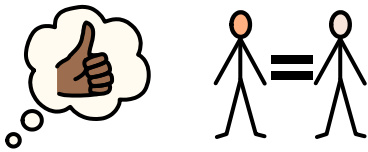
29

I have the right to an education which develops my personality, respect for others' rights and the environment

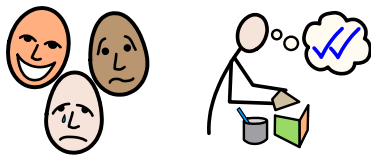


# 29

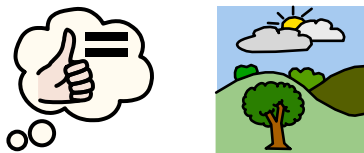
I have the right to an education which develops my personality, respect for others' rights and the environment



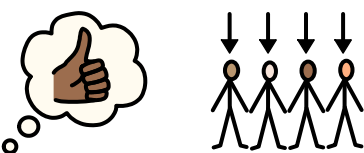
Education should develop my respect for human rights.



It should develop my personality and talents.



Education should develop my respect for the natural environment.



It should encourage me to respect my parents, my own and other cultures.



# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



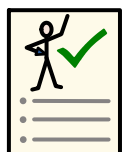
30

I have a right to speak my own language and to follow my family's way of life

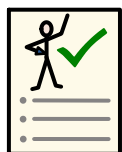


# 30

**I have a right to speak my own language and to follow my family's way of life**



**I have the right to learn and use my own language whether or not these are shared by most of the people in the country where I live.**



**I have the right to follow the customs of my family whether or not these are shared by most of the people in the country where I live.**

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



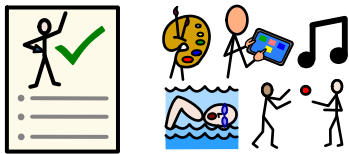
31

I have a right to  
relax and play

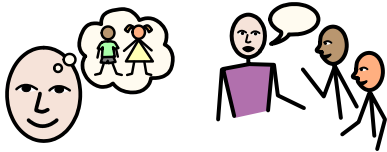


# 31

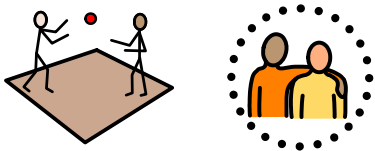
I have a right to  
relax and play



I have the right to play, relax, and join in a wide range of cultural, artistic, and other recreational activities.

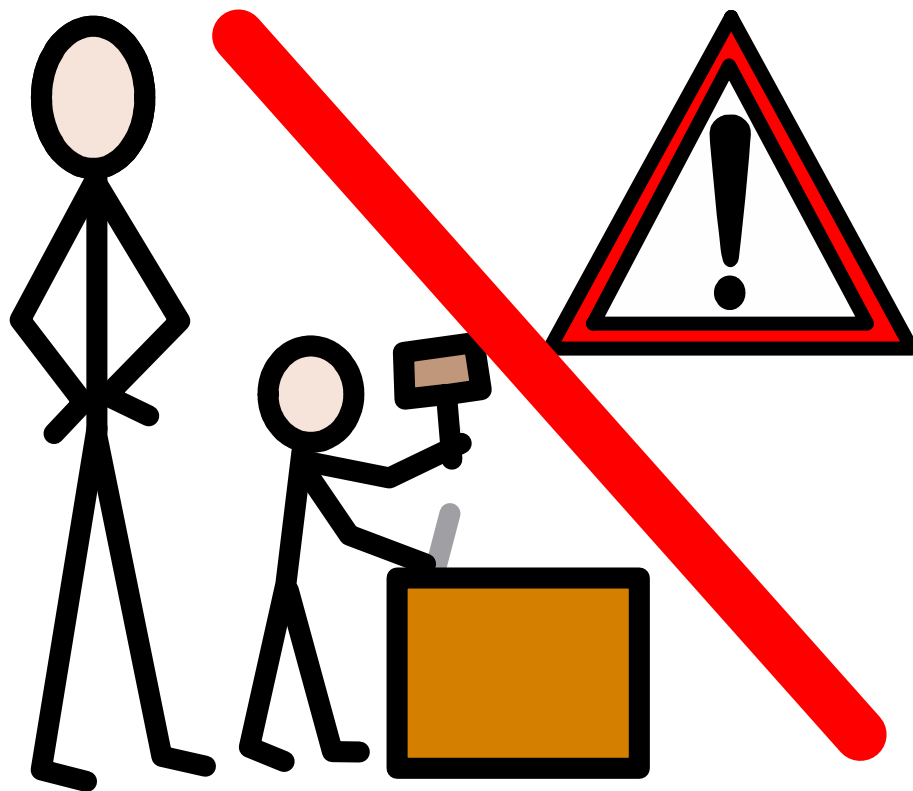


Adults should think about what I need to make sure I have opportunities to play and relax in my local community and should involve me in planning.



I have a right to play and be with other children in a safe, supportive, stimulating and stress-free environment.

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



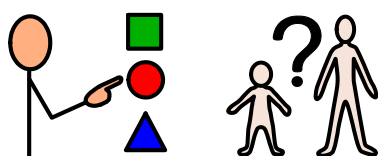
32

I should not be made to do dangerous work

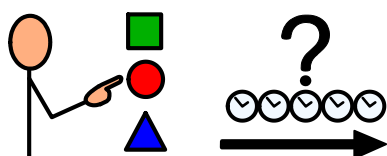


# 32

**I should not be made to do dangerous work**



**The Government should agree a minimum age for when I can start work.**



**The Government should say how many hours I am allowed to work when I am old enough.**



**The Government should make sure that adults who don't stick to these rules are fined.**

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



33

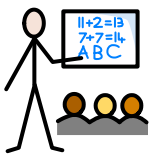
I should be protected from dangerous drugs

# 33

I should be protected  
from dangerous drugs



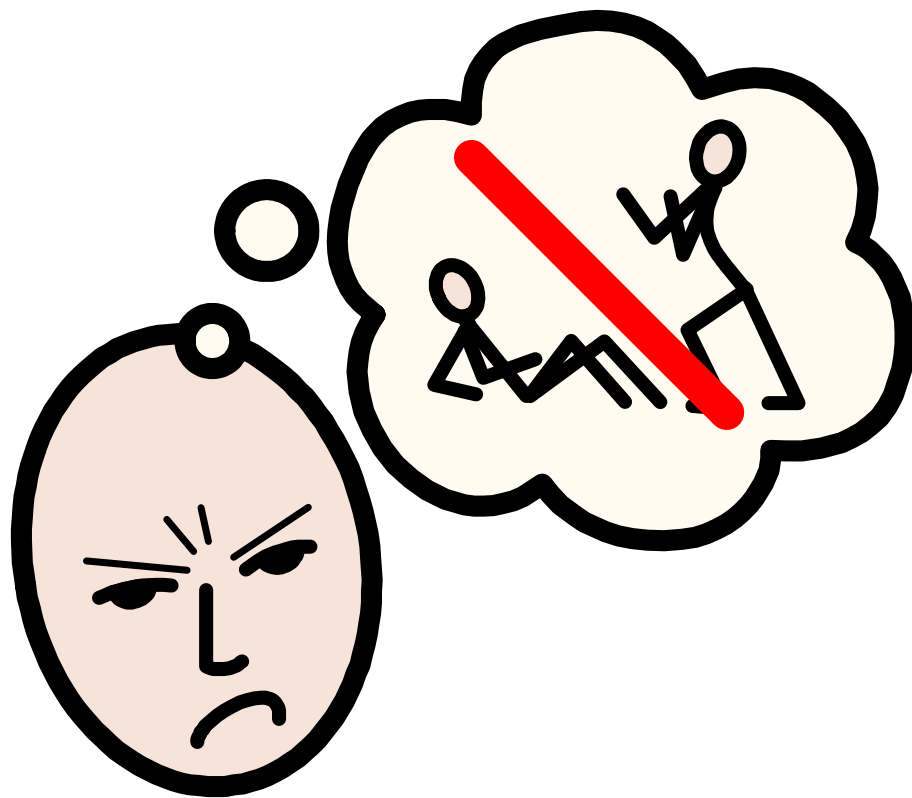
The Government should provide ways of  
protecting me from dangerous drugs.



For example - The Government should make  
sure I know about dangerous drugs and what  
they do and that I am protected from coming  
into contact with them.



# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



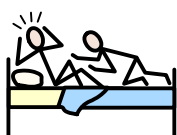
34

Nobody should touch me  
in ways that make me feel  
uncomfortable, unsafe or sad

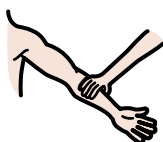


# 34

**Nobody should touch me  
in ways that make me feel  
uncomfortable, unsafe or sad**



**The Government should protect me  
from sexual abuse.**



**Nobody should do anything to my body  
that I do not want them to do, like touching  
me or taking pictures of me or making me  
say things I don't want to say.**



**If I have been harmed or abused  
I should get the help I need to recover.**

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



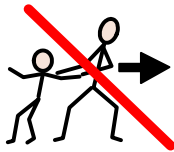
35

I should not be abducted,  
sold or trafficked



# 35

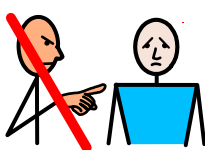
I should not be abducted,  
sold or trafficked



The Government should make sure  
that I am not taken from my family illegally.

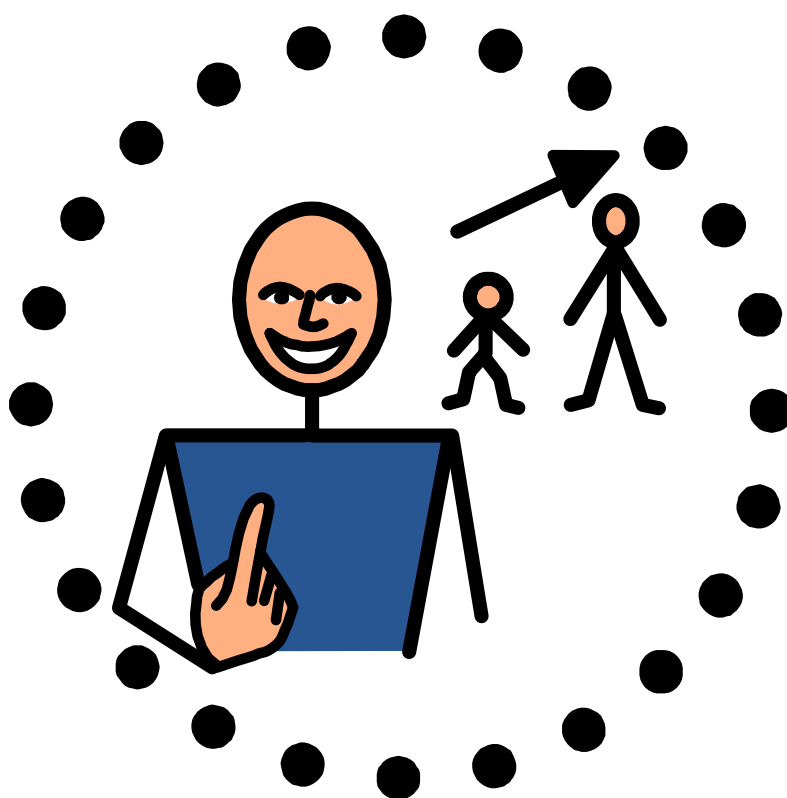


I should not be abducted, sold or trafficked.



The Government should make sure  
that I am not exploited.

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



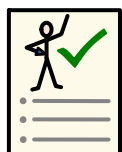
36

I have the right to be kept safe from things that could harm my development



# 36

I have the right to be kept safe from things that could harm my development

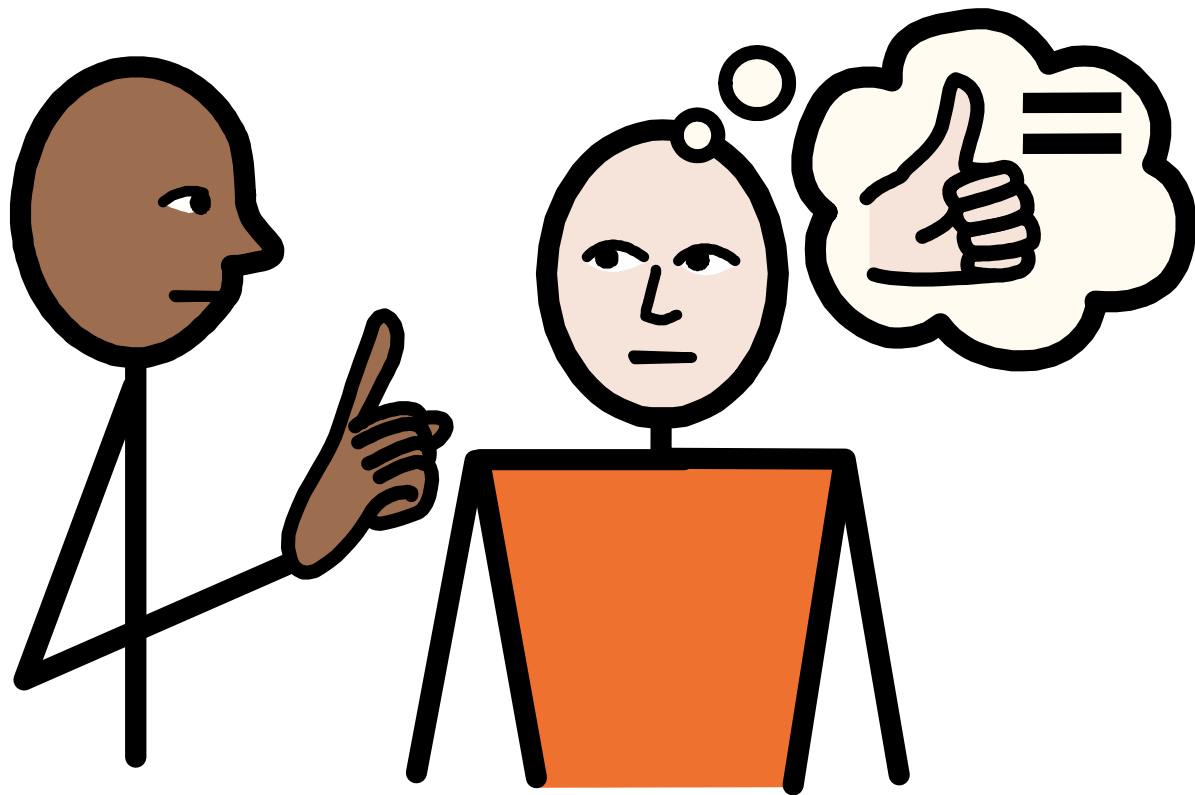


I should be protected from any activities that could harm my development.



For example – I shouldn't do work that is unsafe. That means that people who employ me should only do so when I'm old enough. They should only ask me to do things which are safe.

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



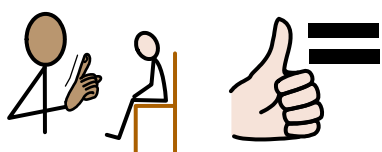
37

I have the right not to be punished in a cruel or hurtful way



# 37

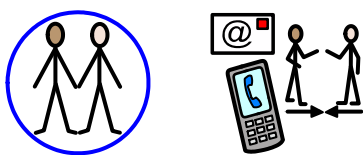
I have the right not to be punished in a cruel or hurtful way



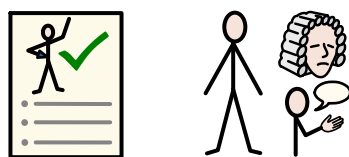
If I break the law, I should not be treated cruelly.



I should not be put in prison with adults.



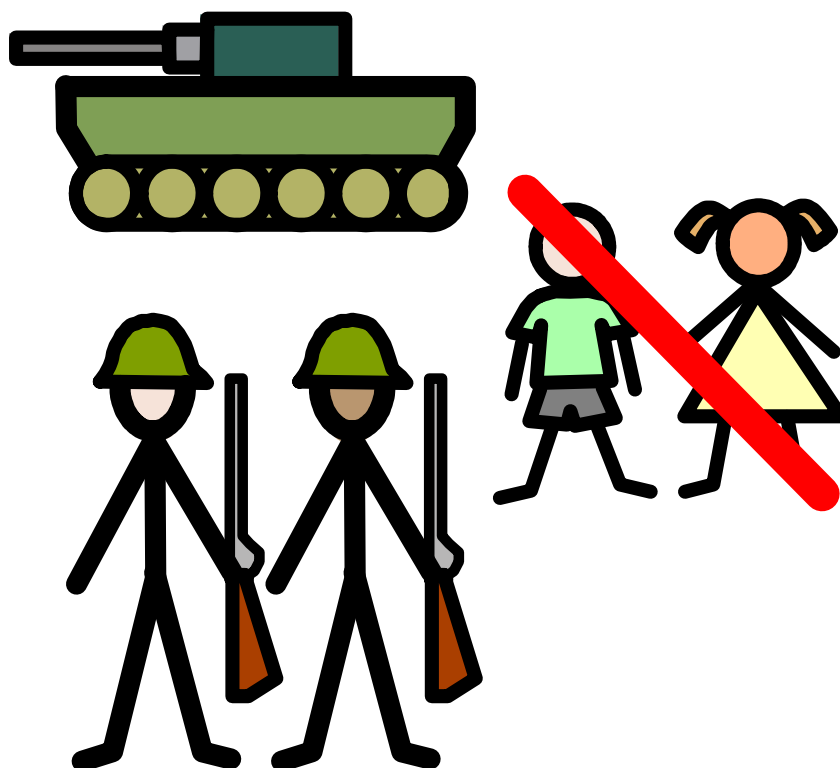
I should be allowed to keep in contact with my family.



I have the right to get legal help.



# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



38

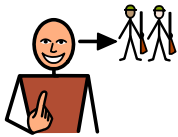
I am not allowed to join  
the army until I am 15



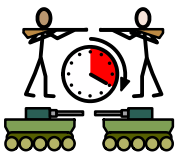
# 38

I am not allowed to join  
the army until I am 15

## 16

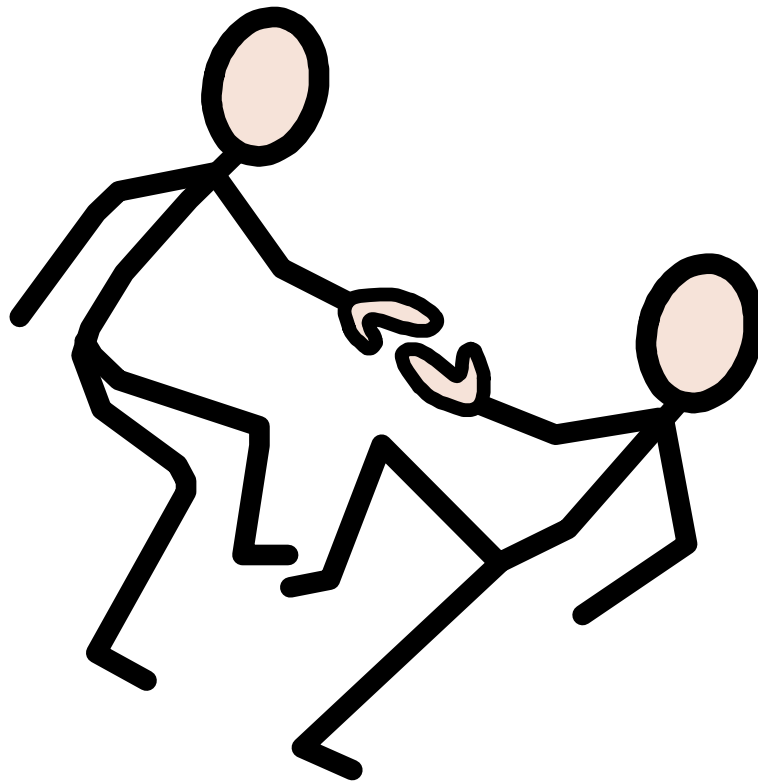


I am not allowed to join the army  
until I am 15.



If my country is at war,  
I should get special protection.

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



39

I have the right to help  
if I have been hurt,  
neglected or badly treated



# 39

**I have the right to help  
if I have been hurt,  
neglected or badly treated**

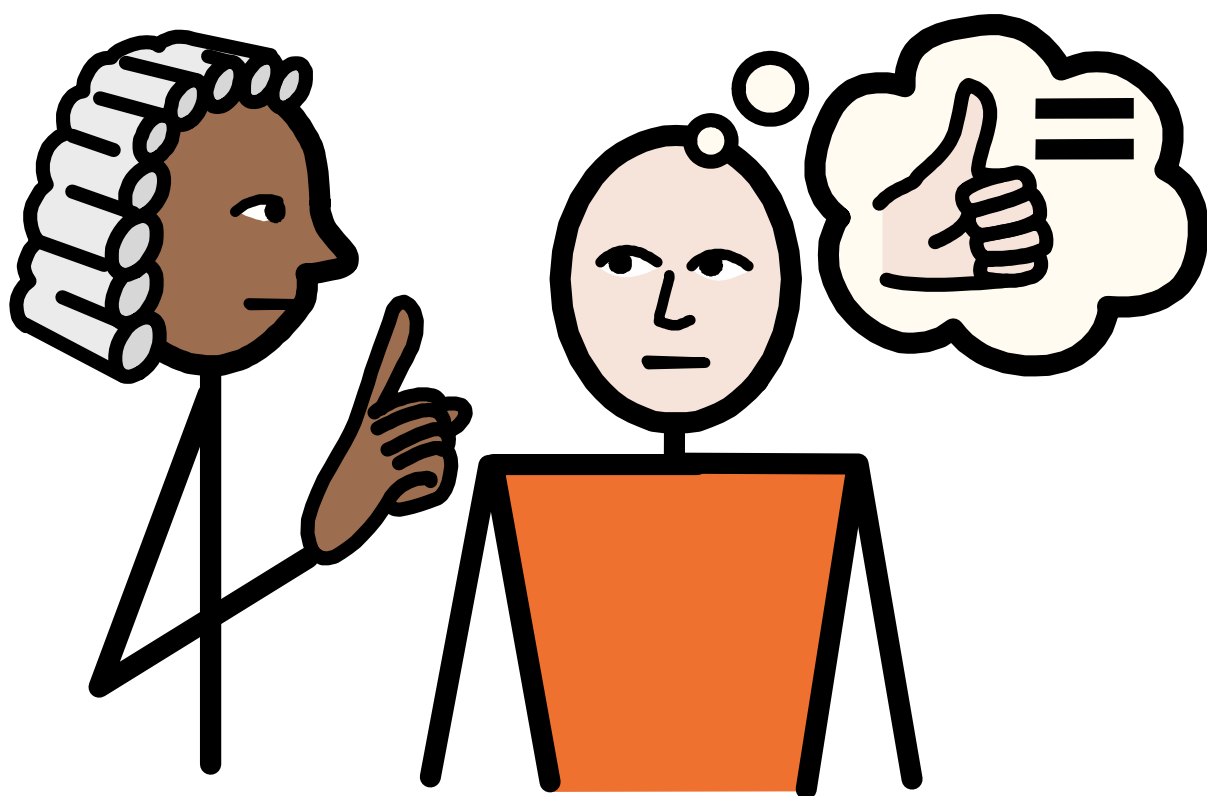


**If I have been hurt, neglected or badly treated  
I should get special help to make me feel better.**



**For example – I have the right to be given support  
if I want to get better following neglect, abuse,  
punishment or being involved in a war.**

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



40

I have the right to legal help  
and to be treated fairly if  
I have been accused of  
breaking the law



# 40

**I have the right to legal help  
and to be treated fairly if  
I have been accused of  
breaking the law**



**If I am accused of breaking the law,  
I should get legal help.**



**Putting children or young people  
in prison should only happen for  
the most serious offences.**

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



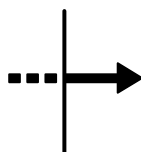
41

Where our country treats us better than the U.N. does we should keep up the good work!



# 41

**Where our country treats us better than the U.N. does we should keep up the good work!**



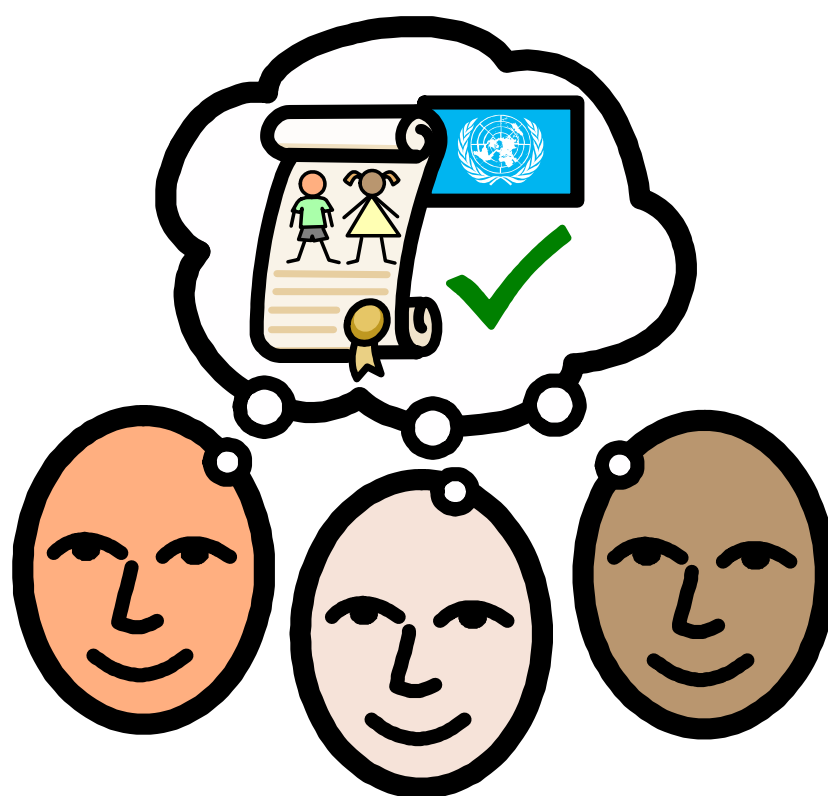
**If the laws in my country protect me better than the articles of the UNCRC then those laws should stay.**



**The rights listed in the UNCRC are a foundation on which Governments can build.**



# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



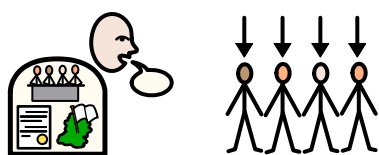
42

Everyone should know  
about the UNCRC

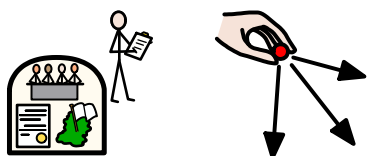


# 42

## Everyone should know about the UNCRC

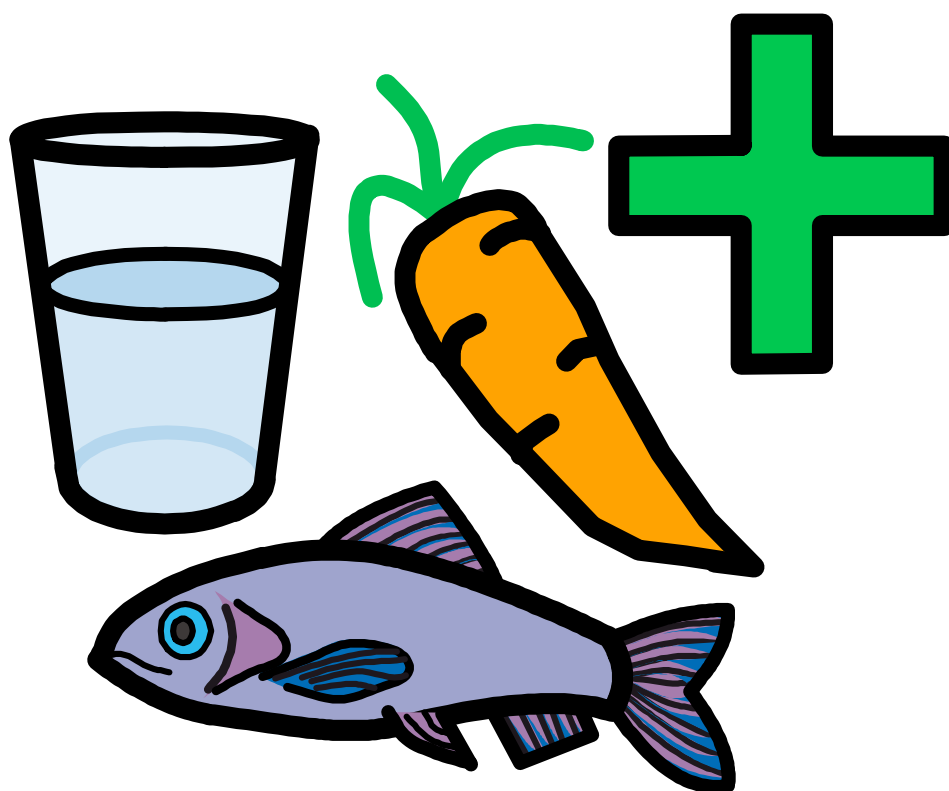


It is the government's job to make sure that adults and children know about the UNCRC.



They should make sure they do this in an appropriate and active way.

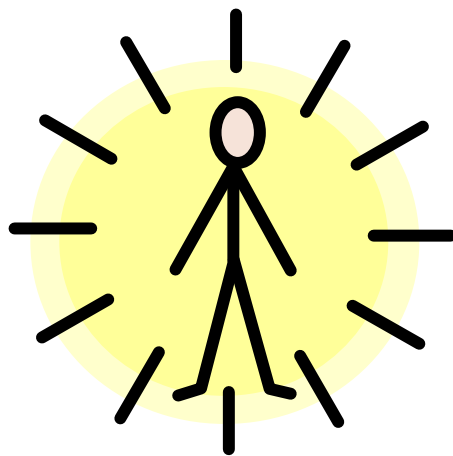
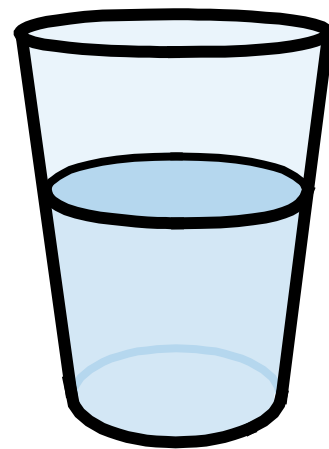
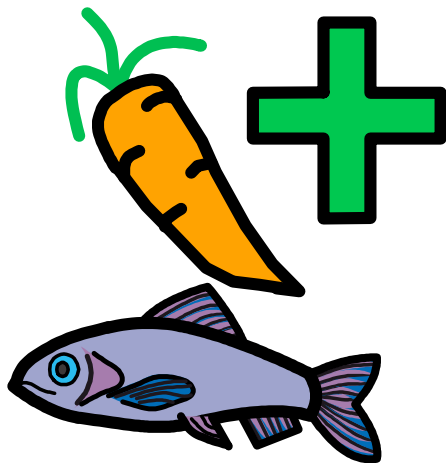
# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



# Survival

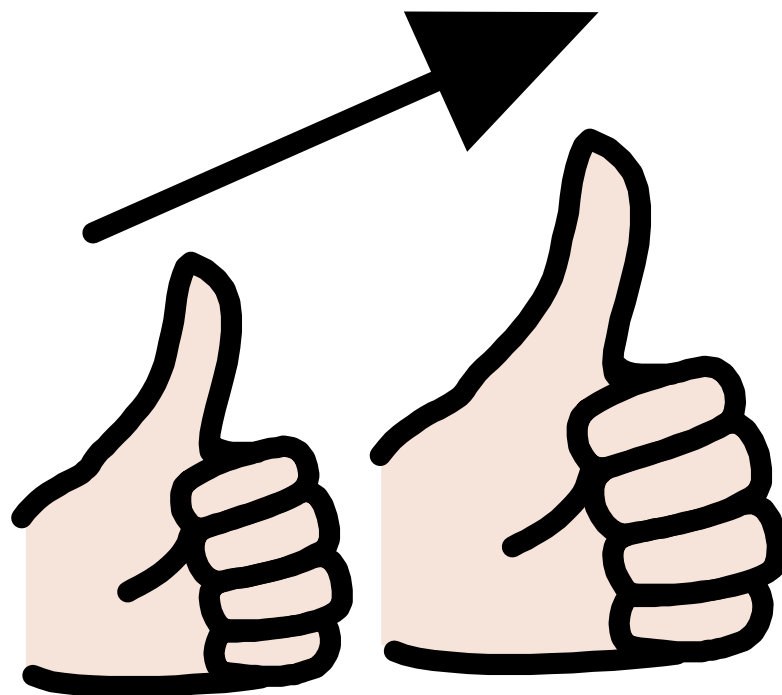


# Survival



**You have a right to life, good food,  
water, and to grow up healthy**

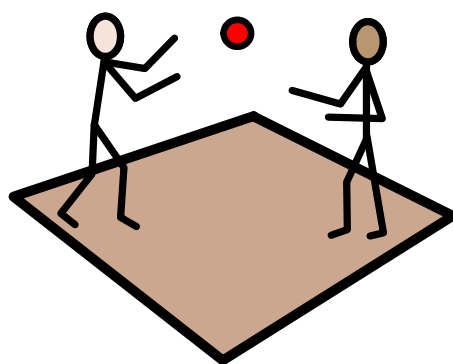
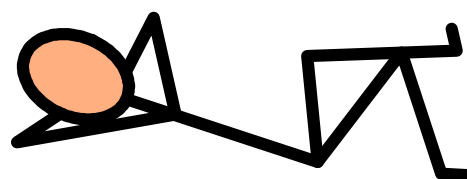
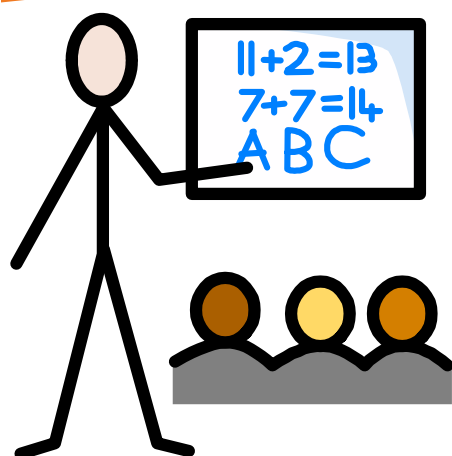
# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



# Development

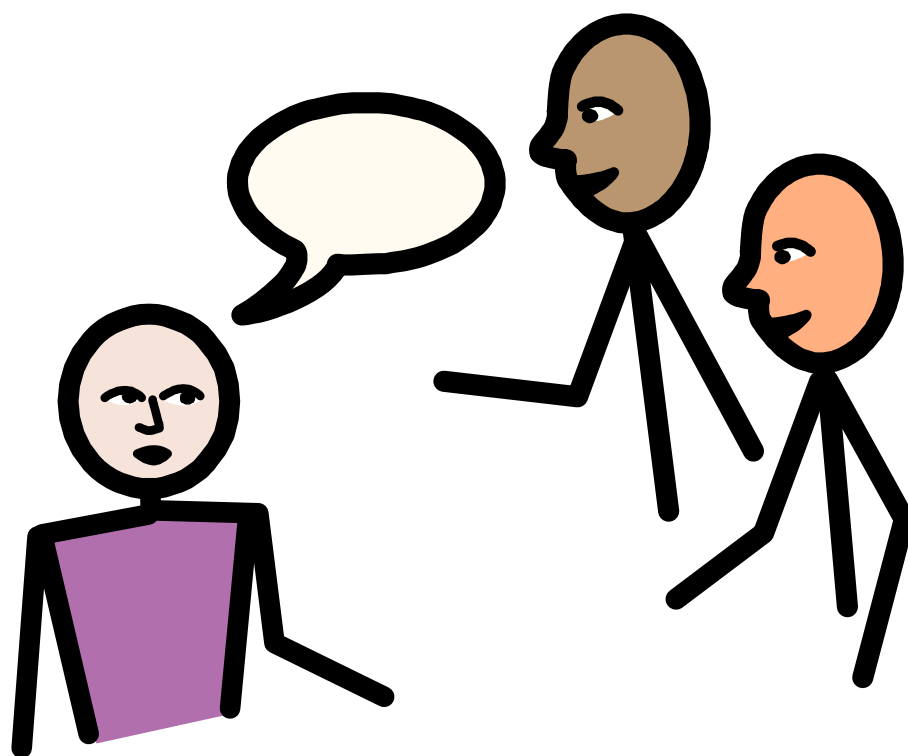


# Development



**You have a right to an education  
and time to relax and play**

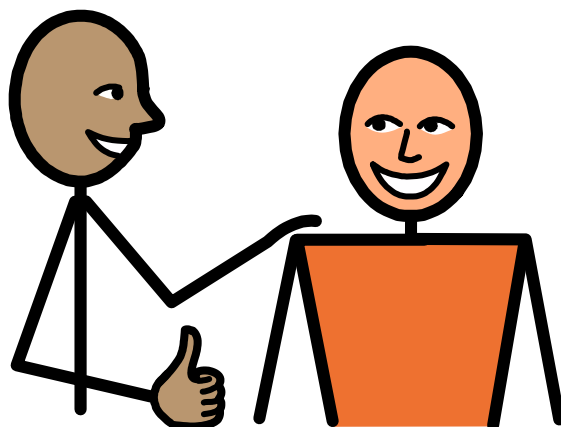
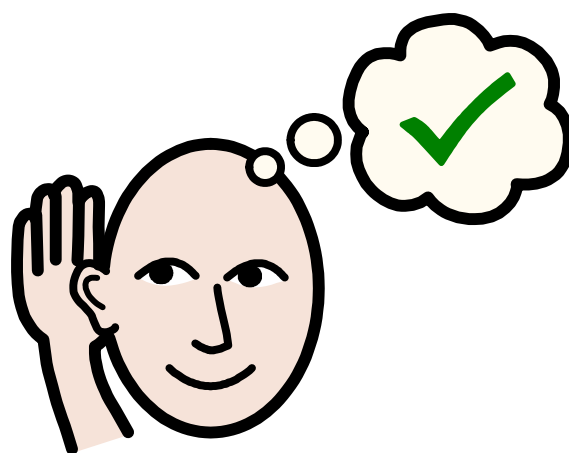
# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



## Participation



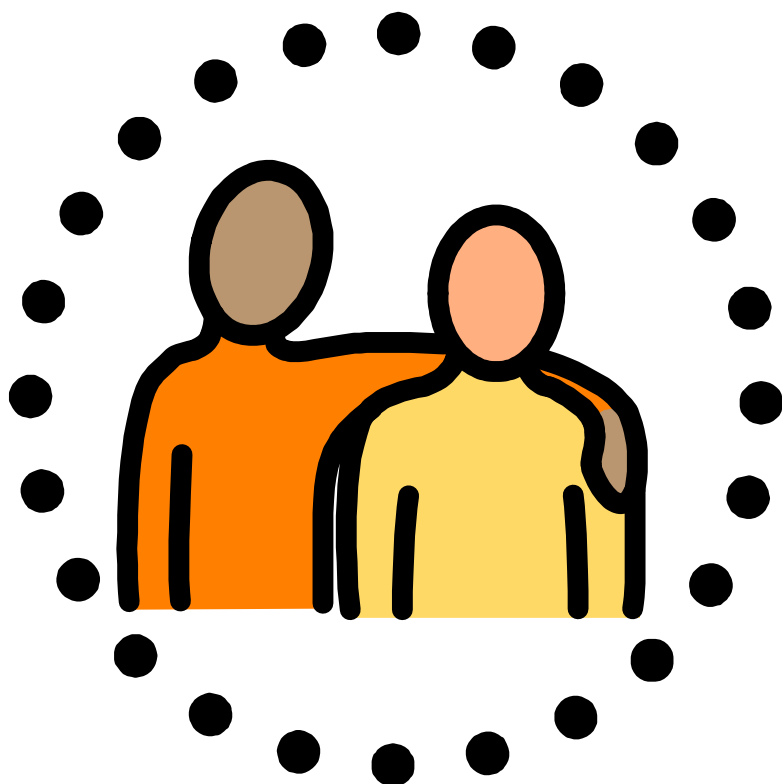
# Participation



You have a right to say how you feel,  
be listened to, and taken seriously



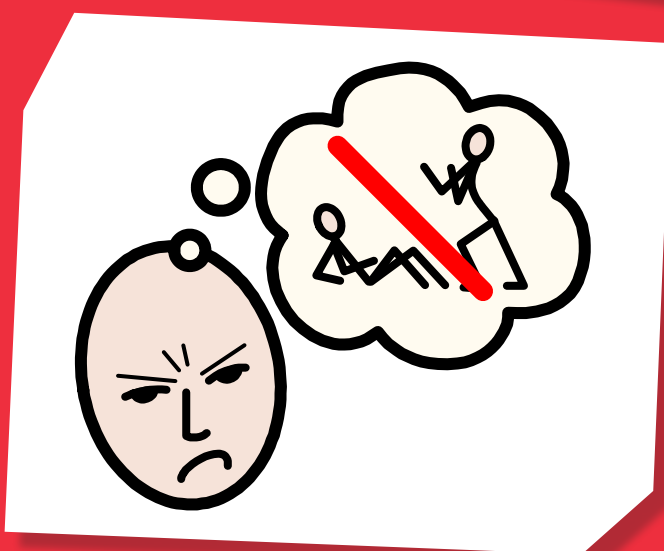
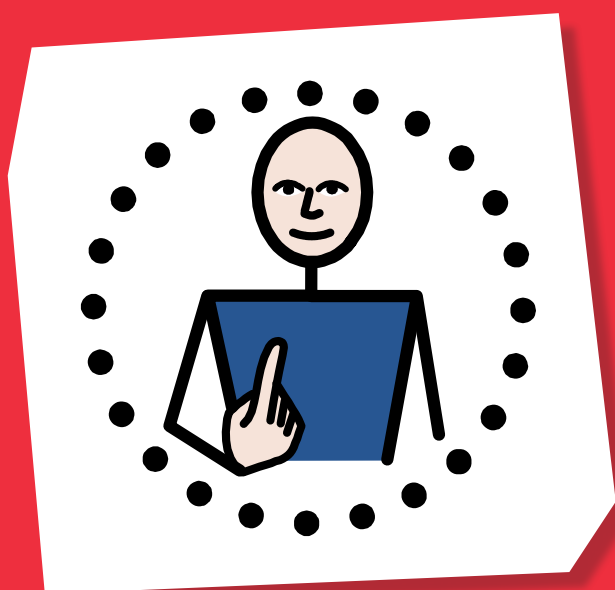
# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



## Protection

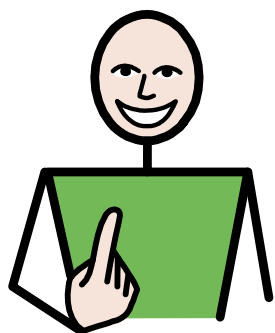


# Protection

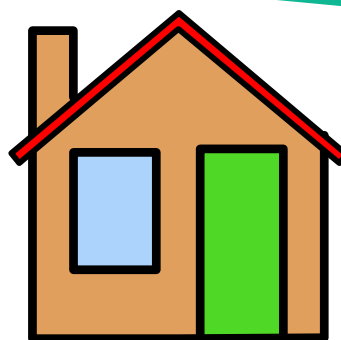


**You have a right to be treated well  
and not be hurt by anyone**

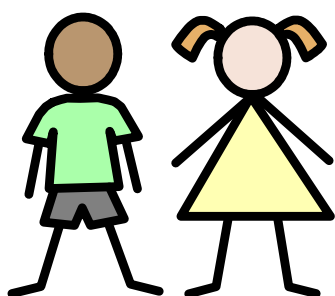
# Glossary



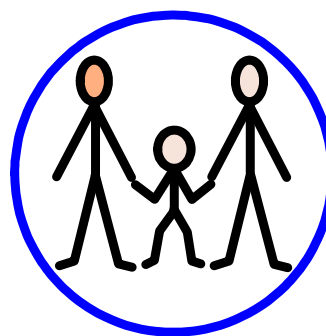
Me



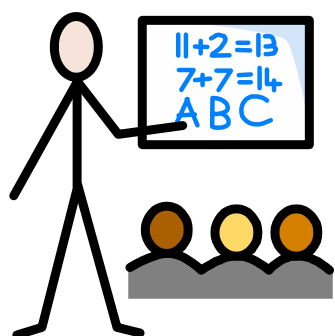
Home



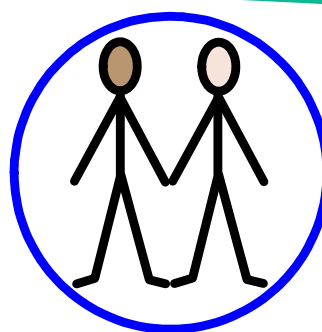
Children



Family

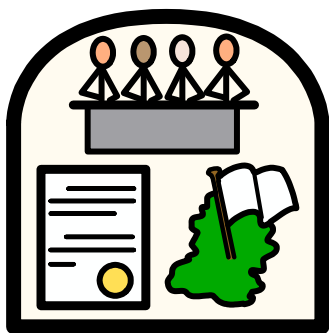


School



Parents

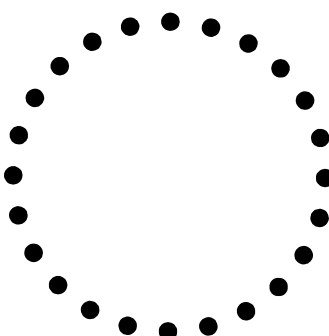
# Glossary



Government



Country



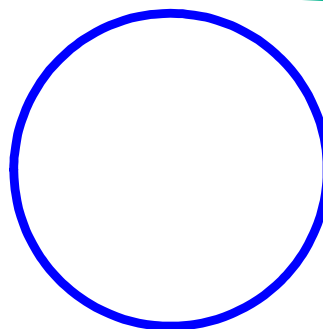
Protection



Law



No



My